Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the African American Community

March 31, 2009

Question: Why do you live here?

- Available property
- Convenient access to work

Concerns

- Sidewalks lack of no place for kids to safely walk- not pedestrian friendly South Meade street needs to be paved
- City did not seek input during first process
- Continuation of gentrification
- African Americans have been treated as second class
- Diversity levels need to return to previous numbers
- Affordability of housing/economics

Question:In what ways have your area changed?

• New young, affluent couples

Concerns continued -

- Density
- Rainier Ave 18 wheels to skateboards too busy
- Reduction of lanes to one each way
- Grants for minority businesses (need new)
- Metro facility on McClellan and Rainier
- Congestion (pedestrian and vehicle)
- Othello@MLK & Graham and Brandon will be renovated (?)
- Parking in the city is hard
- Housing congestion

Question: What kind of impact will Light Rail have on the community?

- Too far to walk to the Light Rail from home
- How easy is it for developers to get a permit?
- Sidewalks on 48th street
- Bus routes disappearing
- Emergency response time inadequate
- What trends and impact has light rail had on other cities?
- Security at transit center
- Safety concerns
- Shuttle people down to light rail because of the discontinuation of bus routes
- People parking where they don't live
- Future cost of transportation
- There will be a backlash people will start driving again

Other Comments

- Is there going to be discounted rates for students, seniors, etc?
- What is the customer service system will be in place?

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Desired goods and services

- Sidewalks condition or lack of
- 48th (hint, hint!)
- Lifts morale
- Skating ring
- Employment for residents that live in the area
- Community ownership in the development of the area.
- Extension of the core of Columbia City
- No taverns, no alcohol, no Microsoft unless they employ neighborhood folks.
- Trade schools, private
- Fabric store
- Fred Myer with bank
- Art supply store
- Old chubby and tubby site
- Cultural center (diverse, multicultural)
- Affordable programs at the community center
- Business that offer apprenticeship programs
- More family based areas/centers
- Another Boys and Girls club
- Codes and standards for businesses/(provide grants to start businesses)
- Community swimming pool